

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

In general, the present invention provides a binding system for mounting a rider's foot to a recreational riding device to provide an adjustable suspension interface between the rider's foot and the riding device. In one embodiment, the binding system includes a base plate having an upper surface adapted to support the rider's foot, and an opposed, lower surface adapted to be oriented adjacent to and spaced apart from the recreational riding device. A support base is adapted to mate to the recreational riding device and defines a central axis, and a connecting element mates the base plate to the support base, and is adapted to allow pivotal movement, ~~e.g., pitch and/or roll movement,~~ of the base plate about the central axis with respect to the support base. The system can also include at least one compression member adapted to mate to at least one of the lower surface of the base plate and a recreational riding device. The compression member(s) are effective to compress between the base plate and the recreational riding device in response to a force applied to at least one of the base plate and the recreational riding device.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention provides a binding system that is effective for use on a recreational device, such as a snowboard, and that is adapted to mate to, or that includes, a boot or other footwear worn by the user. In general, the binding system includes a base plate for supporting a rider's foot, and a connecting element for mating the base plate to an elongate board, e.g., a snowboard. The connecting element is effective to mate the base plate to a snowboard about a fixed central axis, yet to allow pivotal movement of the base plate about the central axis with respect to the snowboard thereby providing an adjustable suspension interface between the rider's foot and the snowboard. ~~The term "pivotal," as used herein is intended to include pitch and roll movement, or some combination of pitch and roll movement, about a substantially fixed central axis.~~ The binding system can also include at least one compression member mated to the base plate and/or to a snowboard. The compression member(s) are effective to compress between the base plate and the snowboard in response to a force applied to at least one of the base plate and the snowboard. The binding system is particularly advantageous in that the suspension interface between the base plate and the snowboard

provides enhanced biomechanical operation and increasing mobility, and the compression members absorb chatter and shock. Moreover, there is no relative motion between the base plate and the boot since the system preferably pivots about a fixed central axis, so the rider's ability to control the snowboard is not adversely affected.